

VZCZCXYZ0000
RR RUEHWEB

DE RUEHJA #0135 0271016
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 271016Z JAN 09
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 1315
INFO RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC

UNCLAS JAKARTA 000135

SIPDIS
SENSITIVE

DEPT FOR EAP/MTS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [ID](#)

SUBJECT: Yudhoyono Advisor -- the Time is Now for a Strategic Partnership

11. (SBU) The time is now to build a U.S.-Indonesian strategic partnership according to President Yudhoyono's key economic advisor. Chatib Basri, who served as SBY's sherpa to the November 2008 G20 Summit in Washington, said there is new-found enthusiasm throughout the Indonesian government to work with the United States. In the past, many Indonesians sought to distance themselves from the U.S. Now, given President Obama's tremendous popularity in Indonesia, government officials are looking at ways to associate with the U.S.

12. (SBU) Basri emphasized that Indonesia is ready be a partner, not just an aid recipient. President Yudhoyono is seeking ways to increase Indonesia's international standing through his leadership role on climate change and participation in the G20 process to address the global financial crisis. Basri acknowledged that Indonesia does not yet have the self-confidence to play an international role commensurate with its population. But, he added, working in partnership with the U.S. on global issues would help Indonesia develop the confidence it needs.

HUME